

Appl. No. 09/920,756
Amdt. dated November 23, 2005
Reply to Office Action of September 21, 2005

Remarks

The present amendment responds to the Official Action dated September 21, 2005. The Official Action rejected claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) based on Paul U.S. Patent No. 6,687,817 (Paul). This sole ground of rejection is addressed below following a brief discussion of the present invention to provide context.

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12, 15-18, 20, and 22-23 have been amended to be more clear and distinct. Claim 14 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1-13 and 15-23 are presently pending.

The Present Invention

Methods and apparatus for storing, retrieving, and managing computer system-specific configuration settings for a computer system are described. The computer system-specific configuration settings include at least one of brightness, volume, and energy saving settings. A storage device or a network connection to another storage device or computer system or both are used to "mirror" applicable portions of the computer system-specific configuration settings to the storage device or network computer system in order that the computer system-specific configuration settings can be retrieved each time the computer system is booted.

Retrieving system-specific configuration settings in the manner as claimed above advantageously allows a standard hardware platform such as a point of sale terminal to operate in different operating software configurations including operating system and application software ranging from Windows® CE, Windows® 98, Windows® NT, or the like, for example. As an

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example, a point of sale terminal such as NCR's 7401 or 7454 may run Windows CE, an operating system primarily for a hand-held device. To do so, the point of sale terminal may have to retrieve configuration settings for operating Windows CE because, unlike many hand-held devices, the POS terminal typically is restarted in order to utilize a different operating system. On the other hand, once an operating system is installed and configured on a handheld, the handheld is not typically reconfigured and is typically not rebooted. See present specification at ¶[002]. During the re-boot process of the terminal, the configuration settings required by Windows CE are thus loaded in order for the terminal to operate the Windows CE operating system.

The Art Rejections

As addressed in greater detail below, Paul does not support the Official Action's reading of it and the rejection based thereupon should be reconsidered and withdrawn. Further, the Applicant does not acquiesce in the analysis of Paul made by the Official Action and respectfully traverses the Official Action's analysis underlying its rejection.

Claims 1-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) based on Paul. Paul addresses a technique for configuring a device over a network to operate within the network. Paul, col. 2, lines 41-46. To this end, Paul describes a two way communication protocol between a new device 320 with a configuration computer 300. Paul, Fig. 3. The new device 320 repeatedly sends a "configuration request" until the configuration computer 300 responds. The configuration computer 300 responds by sending a multicast "configuration pending" message on

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the network. After the new device 320 receives the configuration pending message, it enters a listening mode to wait for configuration data to be sent from the configuration computer 300. Once the new device 320 receives the configuration data from the configuration computer 300, the new device 320 may resume its boot process or reboot using the new configuration data. Paul, col. 3, lines 43-65 and Fig. 3. However, the configuration data communicated to and utilized by the new device 320 is limited to allowing the new device 320 to be configured for communicating over the network. Paul, Abstract, col. 4, lines 39-41, col. 5, lines 30-39.

In contrast to Paul, the present invention addresses retrieving computer system-specific configuration settings for a POS terminal. The computer system-specific configuration settings include settings such as brightness, volume, or energy saving settings for the POS terminal. These settings are typically utilized by the operating system that will be running on the computer system. Retrieving system-specific configuration settings advantageously allows a standard hardware platform to execute different operating software configurations including operating system and application software which range from Windows® CE, Windows® 98, Windows® NT, or the like. For example, a typical POS terminal may run Windows CE, an operating system primarily for a hand-held device. To do so, the point of sale terminal may have to retrieve configuration settings for operating Windows CE because, unlike many hand-held devices, the POS terminal typically is restarted in order to utilize a different operating system. On the other hand, once an operating system is installed and configured on a handheld, the handheld is not typically reconfigured and is typically not rebooted. See present specification at ¶[002]. During the re-boot process of the terminal, the configuration settings required by Windows CE are thus

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loaded in order for the terminal to operate the Windows CE operating system. Claim 1, as presently amended, reads as follows:

1. A computer implemented method of configuring a point of sale (POS) terminal to execute a handheld platform operating software comprising the steps of:

reading generic configuration settings from a storage device;

storing generic configuration settings in a memory;

determining if first computer system-specific configuration settings are stored on an attached storage device, said first computer system-specific configuration settings including at least one of brightness, volume, and energy saving settings for the POS terminal;

if said first computer system-specific configuration settings are stored on said storage device, copying said first computer system-specific configuration settings to said memory;

determining if second computer system-specific configuration settings are stored on a network device accessed through a network;

if said second computer system-specific configuration settings are stored on the network device, copying said second computer system-specific configuration settings to said memory;

setting a boot status setting; and

rebooting said POS terminal to execute the handheld platform operating software according to computer system-specific configuration settings stored in said memory. (emphasis added)

Paul does not disclose and does not make obvious "computer system-specific configuration settings including at least one of brightness, volume, and energy saving settings for the POS terminal" as presently claimed in claims 1, 4-6, 12, 17, 18, 20 and 22. The Official Action relies on Paul at col. 6, lines 1- 46 for disclosing specific settings as claimed. Applicants respectfully disagree. At the cited portion of text, Paul describes how its invention may be implemented using JAVA® TCP/IP multicast facilities and a network attached storage (NAS) device. Paul addresses configuration data to the extent necessary for a new device to

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communicate on a network and does not address the problem of configuring a POS terminal in the manner claimed.

Furthermore, claim 1 further addresses copying computer system-specific configuration settings for a POS terminal from two locations. One location is a storage device attached to the POS terminal. The other location is a network device accessed through a network. Claim 17 addresses storing computer system-specific configuration settings for a POS terminal to the same two locations mentioned above. By storing the computer system-specific configuration settings to and copying the computer system-specific configuration settings from two locations, the claimed invention advantageously provides a redundant approach to managing configuration settings in case of a storage device or network connection failure. Paul does not disclose and does not make obvious copying computer system-specific configuration settings from two locations as presently claimed in claims 1 and 17. Paul merely addresses retrieving network configuration data from a NAS device.

Moreover, claims 1, 4, 5, and 17 specifically address a configuring a POS terminal to execute a handheld platform operating software. Since the computer system is not a handheld device, when the computer system boots, it has to retrieve configuration settings for the handheld platform operating software. See present specification at ¶ [0032], for example. After claiming copying of configuration settings to the computer system's memory, claim 1, as presently amended, recites "rebooting said POS terminal to execute the handheld platform operating software according to computer system-specific configuration settings stored in said memory."

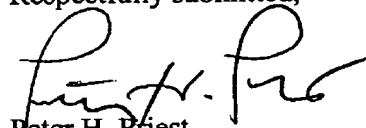
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Paul does not address the problem of configuring non-handheld device such as a POS terminal to execute a handheld platform operating software.

Conclusion

All of the presently pending claims, as amended, appearing to define over the applied references, withdrawal of the present rejection and prompt allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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